

CONGRATULATING SHERIFF
TYSON STEPHENS ON HIS RE-
TIREMENT

HON. RICK W. ALLEN

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 28, 2021

Mr. ALLEN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Sheriff Tyson Stephens, Emanuel County's longest-serving sheriff, on his recent retirement.

Sheriff Stephens first entered public service in 1982, and has spent his career ensuring the community is a safe place to live, work and raise a family. He has certainly made an impact on Emanuel County, and it will continue to be felt for years to come.

I know that his family has made many sacrifices over the past three decades, and it is time for him to enjoy this next chapter with his wife, children and grandchildren. I thank Sheriff Stephens for his service and commitment, and congratulations on his retirement.

RECOGNIZING LIEUTENANT COLONEL MATTHEW D. GORSUCH

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 28, 2021

Mr. GARAMENDI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Lieutenant Colonel Matthew D. Gorsuch of the U.S. Air Force, upon his departure from the Department of the Air Force Directorate of Legislative Liaison. Assigned as a Liaison Officer to the U.S. House of Representatives, Lieutenant Colonel Gorsuch served as a critical bridge between key senior leaders within the Department of Defense, to include the Secretary of the Air Force, Chief of Staff of the Air Force, Chief of Space Operations and 147 assigned Members of Congress, to include the Speaker and the Chairman of the House Armed Services Committee. Over these past two years, he led international travel for four Speaker congressional delegations, including bi-lateral engagements with state leaders from the United Kingdom, France, and Poland, strengthening bonds with the North Atlantic Treaty Organization. His actions reinforced Federal priorities for both the fiscal years 2020 and 2021 National Defense Authorization Acts. He will be deeply missed after exceptional years of service.

Lieutenant Colonel Gorsuch is a native of Leoti, Kansas, and is a graduate of Oklahoma State University with a Bachelor's in Mechanical Engineering and a Master's of Business Administration. He is a 2018 graduated Defense Legislative Fellow.

Lieutenant Colonel Gorsuch began his career in 2003 at Vance Air Force Base, Oklahoma, as a First Assignment Instructor Pilot, and has since held numerous Special Operations assignments, flying the MC-130H Combat Talon II at Hurlburt Field, Florida, and Royal Air Force Mildenhall in the United Kingdom. Trusted for his tactical acumen, he was assigned as a Combat Air Advisor in the 711th Special Operations Squadron, the very same squadron he is departing the Legislative Liaison to Command. His extensive background in

aviation has been critical to our work in strengthening, recapitalizing, and building our Nation's air and space forces.

This moment is bittersweet, as we are deeply saddened to see Matt go. However, we are excited for what awaits him, wish him luck as he commands his prior unit, and look forward to seeing what his future holds.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of the U.S. Congress and a grateful Nation, I extend our deepest appreciation to Lieutenant Colonel Gorsuch for his dedicated service to the U.S. Air Force, U.S. House of Representatives, and to our Nation.

HONORING THE 175TH ANNIVER- SARY OF FREDERICKSBURG, TEXAS

HON. CHIP ROY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 28, 2021

Mr. ROY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 175th anniversary of Fredericksburg, Texas. Fredericksburg was founded on May 8, 1846, by Baron Otfried Hans von Meusebach as the second prominent German settlement in the Texas Hill Country. Those brave settlers established a cordial relationship with the local Comanche tribes allowing the town to grow into what it is today. Now many years later, Fredericksburg has grown into the national spotlight for its wonderful attractions and rich German-Texan culture.

Sites throughout Fredericksburg are near and dear to my heart. I love to visit Luckenbach dance hall with my family and listen to local songwriters cover Waylon Jennings and Willie Nelson. I recommend visiting fields of bluebonnets and wildflowers in the spring and enjoying some world-famous peaches in the summer. While some of the buildings and faces have changed in Fredericksburg, the people are still the same hardworking, friendly Texans who helped mold the state.

Fredericksburg is full of American history. Giants like Fleet Admiral Chester W. Nimitz call Fredericksburg home. Admiral Nimitz led American forces to victory in the battle of Midway, regarded as the most important battle in Naval History. The beautiful National Museum of the Pacific War, named in his honor, resides in downtown Fredericksburg.

Madam Speaker, it is my distinct honor to pay tribute to the many figures who helped shape the history of Fredericksburg. I want to extend my thanks to the Mayor and city leadership who have worked with me on important issues throughout my first two terms, and to groups like the Gillespie County Historical Society who work hard to preserve the history of the region. It is an immense privilege to serve those who will continue to shape the future of Fredericksburg, Texas for the next 175 years.

I hope my colleagues in the House of Representatives will join me in congratulating the town of Fredericksburg on this historic occasion.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 77TH AN-
NIVERSARY OF EXERCISE TIGER

HON. EMANUEL CLEAVER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 28, 2021

Mr. CLEAVER. Madam Speaker, it is with a deep and poignant gratitude that I rise today to celebrate the American heroes who lost their lives seventy-seven years ago during Exercise Tiger. Paving the way for the D-Day invasion that would take place on June 6, 1944, Exercise Tiger, while once kept secret, is now regarded as having been both a tragedy and a critically instructive component of the Allies' mission to end World War II. The lives lost on that fateful day were honored by the soldiers who learned from Exercise Tiger and carried their memory into battle during the liberation of France. It is a story we must never allow ourselves to forget.

Before the assembled British, Canadian, and American forces could carry out the D-Day invasion, 4,000 soldiers conducted a massive simulated landing to rehearse and prepare for that immeasurably vital military act. However, what started as a military exercise ended as one of the greatest military tragedies of World War II. The calm, dark night of April 28, 1944, burst into chaos and combat when German U-boats ambushed the Tank Landing Ships (LSTs) transporting American soldiers. Almost 750 American servicemen, including over 200 Missourians, would give their last full measure of devotion when their vessels were either destroyed or severely damaged. But Allied forces would not be deterred, as the brave soldiers on those vessels banded together to repel enemy attacks and move forward with their mission. Even in the face of immense loss, a well-equipped enemy force, and little help from nearby Allied forces, the tenacity and determination of the soldiers and sailors involved ensured that the landing operations would continue mere hours after the initial attack. Allied Commanders planning the eventual D-Day invasion learned from Exercise Tiger and incorporated new strategies to ensure soldiers would be protected from barrage before landing on the beach. Without the bravery of the forces that fought that day, it is possible that even more American, Canadian, and British lives would have been lost on D-Day, and that the invasion of France, which hinged on secrecy, speed, and synchronicity, would have failed. It is not hyperbole to say that the soldiers and sailors of Exercise Tiger changed the course of world history and that we are forever indebted to their sacrifice.

It is a time-honored tradition in the United States for us to gather and celebrate the heroism and sacrifices of the countless fathers, mothers, brothers, sisters, and children who have died to protect our nation from foreign and domestic threats. On the last Monday of May, thousands congregate to quietly observe and remember the names found on marble headstones cascading across Arlington National Cemetery. On the fourth day of July, we join friends and family for a celebration of our nation's independence. On each November 11th, we reach out to the veterans in our lives, thank them for their service, and if we are lucky, listen to their stories of service. Scattered between these national celebrations are memorials hosted in small towns and big cities